

CLAIMS

1. A method of lysing unwanted, non-malignant cells in a mammal,

said cells having on their surfaces a receptor for a growth factor, and

said method comprising administering to said mammal a cell-lysing amount of a substance characterized in that it has specific affinity for said receptor of said growth factor and has the ability to effect said lysis of said cells.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said cells are lymphocytes.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said lymphocytes are T-lymphocytes.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said lymphocytes are B-lymphocytes.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said receptor is an IL-2 receptor.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said substance comprises an antibody to said receptor.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said substance comprises said growth factor or an analog thereof, linked to a cytotoxin.

8. A method of inhibiting the T-lymphocyte-induced rejection of an allograft in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal, following said allograft, a substance characterized in that it has specific affinity for IL-2 receptors on said T-lymphocytes and has the ability either to effect the lysis of said T-lymphocytes, or to interfere with the binding of IL-2 to said T-lymphocytes.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said substance has the ability to effect the lysis of said T-lymphocytes.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein said substance is administered when said T-lymphocytes are undergoing, in response to said allograft, a proliferative burst characterized by the presence of said IL-2 receptors on the surfaces of said T-lymphocytes.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said substance comprises an antibody to said IL-2 receptor.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said antibody is of the IgG or IgM isotype.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said substance comprises IL-2 or an IL-2 receptor-specific analog thereof linked to a cytotoxin.

15. A method of treating a patient having an acute autoimmune disease characterized by the presence of lymphocytes bearing IL-2 receptors, said method comprising administering to said patient a substance characterized in that it has specific affinity for IL-2 receptors on said lymphocytes and has the ability either to effect the lysis of said lymphocytes, or to interfere with the binding of IL-2 to said lymphocytes.